

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 PRS-01 EB-08
IO-13 ACDA-07 /089 W
-----129123 220845Z /15 L

P R 220805Z AUG 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5138
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USBERLIN 2197

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, AKB, EAIR, UR, WB, GE
SUBJECT: SOVIET EMBASSY PROTEST ABOUT PLANNED (WEST) BERLIN
AGADIR AIR SERVICE

REF: USBERLIN 2132 (NOTAL)

1. WHILE ACTING US POLAD WAS CALLING AT SOVIET EMBASSY
TO CONVEY REPLY ON TIMING OF REICHSBAHN/BUNDESBahn MILITARY
TRAIN TARIFF TALKS (BONN 13343), SOVIET MINISTER KHOTULEV
PRESENTED FOLLOWING PREEMPTIVE PROTEST ABOUT PLANNED
TEGEL-AGADIR AIR SERVICE BY BRITISH CHARTER AIRLINE LAKER:
BEGIN TEXT:

ACCORDING TO WEST BERLIN PRESS REPORTS "THE BRITISH
AIRLINE" "LAKER" PLANS TO START AS OF OCTOBER 1977 A
REGULAR COMMERCIAL AVIATION CONNECTION ON THE ROUTE WEST
BERLIN-AGADIR (MOROCCO). IT HAS IN MIND USING FOR
SUCH FLIGHTS THE SO-CALLED BERLIN AIR CORRIDORS.

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IN THIS CONNECTION THE SOVIET EMBASSY DRAWS THE
ATTENTION OF THE AUTHORITIES OF THE THREE WESTERN POWERS
TO THE FACT THAT THE "BERLIN AIR CORRIDORS," THROUGH
WHICH THE ENGLISH AIRLINE "LAKER" INTENDS TO CARRY OUT
COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS TO MOROCCO, HAVE A SPECIAL REGIME
ESTABLISHED BY FOUR POWER AGREEMENTS AND DECISIONS OF
THE POST-WAR PERIOD. IT IS WELL-KNOWN TO THE AUTHORITIES

OF THE THREE WESTERN POWERS THAT THESE CORRIDORS ARE
INTENDED ONLY FOR FLIGHTS WITH THE AIM OF SUPPLYING
THE GARRISONS OF THE WESTERN POWERS SITUATED
IN THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN. THEIR USE FOR PURPOSES
NOT FORESEEN BY THE ABOVE-MENTIONED DECISIONS IN PARTICULAR
COMMERCIAL AND PASSENGER TRANSPORT, IS ILLEGAL.
MOREOVER FLIGHTS THROUGH THE TERRITORY OF THE GDR WITHOUT
ITS AGREEMENT ARE A GROSS VIOLATION OF THE SOVEREIGNTY
OF THAT STATE.

IT SHOULD BE UNDERLINED THAT THE SOVIET SIDE HAS
MORE THAN ONCE DRAWN ATTENTION TO THE ILLEGAL ACTIVITY
OF THE AIRLINE "LAKER" WHICH IS EVIDENTLY PROCEEDING
ON THE PATH OF SYSTEMATIC VIOLATION OF EXISTING RULES
WITH RESPECT TO THE "BERLIN AIR CORRIDORS."

THE SOVIET SIDE EXPECTS THAT THE APPROPRIATE CON-
CLUSIONS WILL BE DRAWN FROM ITS APPROACH AND WARNS
THAT THE SAFETY OF THE PLANNED FLIGHTS WILL NOT BE
GUARANTEED. END TEXT.

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CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 PRS-01 EB-08
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2. KHOTULEV ADDED THAT SOVIETS WOULD BE MAKING DEMARCHE TO MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT AS WELL. ACTING POLAD STATED THAT ALLIED POSITION ON SUBJECT WAS WELL KNOWN AND HAD BEEN PRESENTED FORMALLY TO SVIETS AS RECENTLY AS SEPTEMBER 1974, BUT THAT HE WOULD CONVEY THE SOVIET DECLARATION TO HIS AUTHORITIES. KHOTULEV SAID THAT SOVIET POSITION WAS ALSO WELL KNOWN. HE ASKED FOR A SPECIFIC REPLY TO HIS DECLARATION, NOT MERELY ANOTHER REFERRAL TO THE ALLIED STATEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 11, 1974.

3. COMMENT: IN CONTRAST TO SOVIET PREEMPTIVE PROTEST ABOUT PROSPECTIVE BERLIN AIR SERVICES MADE IN BASC (REFTEL), SOVIET DECLARATION ON LAKER'S MOROCCAN SERVICE DOES NOT MAKE THREATENING REFERENCE THAT SOVIETS "CANNOT PERMIT" SUCH FLIGHTS BUT STOPS WITH STANDARD SOVIET PHRASEOLOGY THAT THE SAFETY OF SUCH FLIGHTS
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CANNOT BE GUARANTEED. ITS REFERENCE TO AN INFRINGEMENT OF THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE GDR HAS ALSO APPEARED IN EARLIER PROTESTS, SUCH AS THOSE CONCERNING DIRECT AIR SERVICE TO ZURICH. ON ITS FACE, THEREFORE, IT APPEARS TO BE ALONG STANDARD LINES ALTHOUGH THE MENTION OF LAKER AS A SPECIAL VIOLATOR OF THE CORRIDOR REGIME IS A NOVEL TWIST.

4. WE BELIEVE THAT THE TIME HAS PROBABLY COME TO ALY DOWN THE ALLIED VIEW OF THE AIR CORRIDOR REGIME ONCE AGAIN, AND WE WILL BE SEEKING TRIPARTITE CONCURRENCE HERE FOR A REPLY TO THE ABOVE PROTEST WHICH, WE WOULD WORD IN SUCH A WAY AS TO COVER THE ELEMENTS OF THE BASC PROTEST AS WELL. WE WILL TRANSMIT BY SEPTTEL PROPOSED RESPONSE AGREED BY ALLIES HERE TO BE MADE IN BASC TO THE EARLIER PROTEST.

5. FOR RABAT: SOVIETS HAVE LONG OBJECTED TO FLIGHTS FROM WEST BERLIN BEYOND FRG BORDERS, PARTICULARLY IF REGULAR SERVICE IS INVOLVED. ALLIED POSITION HAS ALWAYS BEEN THAT THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY KIND OF LIMITATION ON THE USE OF THE BERLIN AIR CORRIDORS BY AIRCRAFT OF THE THREE WESTERN POWERS. THE SOVIETS AGREED TO THE UNRESTRICTED USE BY THE THREE WESTERN POWERS OF THOSE CORRIDORS AS LONG AS AGO AS 1946. THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES ARE EXPECTED TO FULFILL THEIR OBLIGATIONS REGARDING ALLIED AIRCRAFT FLYING IN THE CORRIDORS AND THE BERLIN CONTROL ZONE (WHICH MEANS THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO KEEP SOVIET AND EAST GERMAN TRAFFIC AWAY). IF YOU ARE ASKED BY THE MOROCCANS ABOUT THE SOVIET DEMARCHE, YOU COULD REPLY THAT THESE INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS FROM WEST BERLIN ARE COMPLETELY LEGAL,

THAT THERE IS ALREADY A SCHEDULED SERVICE TO ZURICH

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FROM WEST BERLIN, THA THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH DIRECT
SERVICES AND INTERANTIONAL CHARTER FLIGHTS IS IMPORTANT
TO THE BERLINERS, AND THAT THIS LATEST SOVIET ATTEMPT
TO REWRITE WHAT MARSHAL ZHUKOV SIGNED IN 1946 MIGHT BEST
BE FIRMLY BUT POLITELY REBUFFED. GEORGE

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